



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, San Francisco, California 94123

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3815 (GOGA-SUPT)

FEB - 9 2001

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Ms. Young:

This is sent in response to your inquiries dated Jan. 18 and Feb 1.

It was announced at the January 23 Golden Gate National Recreation Area Citizens Advisory Commission that discretionary enforcement of the existing federal regulation requiring all pets to be on leash where permitted in national park areas would continue for the next 120 day period. The Advisory Commission also announced at the meeting that their 1978 pet policy - which had identified "voice control" areas within Golden Gate National Recreation Area - was null and void, due to it being inconsistent with National Park Service regulation (see attached).

It was also announced that the park would explore options for managing off-leash use in a more formal manner, and would consult with stakeholder groups involved in this issue. In addition to more consistent enforcement of the leash law on federal park lands, we are examining options for modifying the regulation to allow off-leash use. The park does not have the authority to designate areas for off-leash use within existing NPS regulations. Any option to modify existing regulations would require approval from NPS headquarters. We expect this process, including follow-up discussions with stakeholder groups, to run well beyond the 120 day period.

We have met on this issue with staff of San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, as well as members of the Board of Supervisors who have expressed interest in being briefed on this issue. We would welcome further discussions with individual city officials on this issue.

Sincerely,

Brian O'Neill
General Superintendent

bcc: Nicole Walthall
Ralph Mihan
Mary Scott